

Customer No.: 31561  
Docket No.: 10948-US-PA  
Application No.: 10/605,917

**In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended) ~~An operating method of a~~ A portable computer ~~security mechanism in which the portable computer is~~ equipped with an embedded controller (EC), ~~[[and]] the EC [[is]]~~ being equipped with a security mechanism operable with a method comprising steps of ~~which comprises~~:

providing a key that provides a key signal to allow the EC to learn whether the portable computer is locked;

turning on the security mechanism while the EC receives the key signal indicating that the portable computer is locked;

determining whether a hacking action is ~~[[take]]~~ taking place; and

activating a security action in responding to the hacking action.

Claim 2 (currently amended) ~~The operating method~~ portable computer of claim 1, wherein the security mechanism prevents the portable computer from being turned on.

Claim 3 (currently amended) ~~The operating method~~ portable computer of claim 1, wherein the security mechanism prevents an input from a keyboard.

Claim 4 (currently amended) ~~The operating method~~ portable computer of claim 1, wherein the security mechanism prevents an input from a mouse.

Customer No.: 31561  
Docket No.: 10948-US-PA  
Application No.: 10/605,917

Claim 5 (currently amended) The ~~operating method~~ portable computer of claim 1, wherein the security mechanism prevents a basic input/output system (BIOS) data from being changed.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The ~~operating method~~ portable computer of claim 1, wherein the key is an internal device or an internal function of the portable computer.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The ~~operating method~~ portable computer of claim 1, wherein the key is an external device or an external function of the portable computer.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The ~~operating method~~ portable computer of claim 1, wherein the key signal is a binary signal.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The ~~operating method~~ portable computer of claim 1, wherein a related follow-up procedure of a security function takes place when a hacking action is detected by the security mechanism.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The ~~operating method~~ portable computer of claim 9, wherein the related follow-up procedure turns off the portable computer.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The ~~operating method~~ portable computer of claim 9, wherein the related follow-up procedure turns off a monitor device of the portable computer.

Customer No.: 31561  
Docket No.: 10948-US-PA  
Application No.: 10/605,917

Claim 12 (currently amended) The ~~operating method~~ portable computer of claim 9, wherein the related follow-up procedure executes a security program.

Claim 13 (new) An embedded controller (EC) equipped to a portable computer, the EC being operable with a security mechanism operable with a method comprising steps of:

providing a key that provides a key signal to allow the EC to learn whether the portable computer is locked;

turning on the security mechanism while the EC receives the key signal indicating that the portable computer is locked;

determining whether a hacking action is taking place; and

activating a security action in responding to the hacking action.

Claim 14 (new) A security mechanism for a portable computer, the security mechanism being equipped to an embedded controller that is equipped to a portable the security mechanism running a process comprising:

providing a key that provides a key signal to allow the EC to learn whether the portable computer is locked;

turning on the security mechanism while the EC receives the key signal indicating that the portable computer is locked;

determining whether a hacking action is taking place; and

activating a security action in responding to the hacking action.